



Sigma Alpha Sorority

Cultivating Professional Women in Agriculture

Sigma Alpha Bylaw Amendment Proposals 2015

Change of Reference of National Officers to Board Members

1. Article III, Section 2

Section 2. Units of Government: The principal units of organization and government of this sorority shall be as follows: the National Chapter, the National Chapter Congress, and the *Officers*.

2. Article VI, Section 1-2, 4-7, 9-13

Section 1. Qualifications for *Office*: No one shall be nominated, elected, or appointed as a National Sorority Board *Officer* of this sorority, until such individual has been a member of this sorority for at least three (3) years and is an Alumni Member. Any *Officer* whose dues as an alumni are not paid by October 31st of each year shall automatically become ineligible for *office*. Such *office* shall be declared vacant by the National President and a successor shall be chosen immediately, in accordance with the Laws of this sorority, to serve for the remainder of the term.

Section 2. Nominations for National *Officers*: After the report by the Nomination Committee has been accepted by the National Chapter Congress, each of the names contained therein shall be considered as placed in nomination for the respective offices indicated. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the course of National Chapter Congress.

Section 4. Secret Balloting: The ballot for the election of National *Officers* shall be taken secretly except when there is only one candidate nominated for a position.

Section 5. Non-Majority Results: In the event that the vote for a National *Officer* does not produce a majority winner, a second ballot will be taken including consideration of all the candidates for the position involved. Should this second ballot again produce a non-majority result, the name of the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be withdrawn and another vote taken. This shall continue until the required National *Officer* is elected.

Section 6. Election and Tenure of *Office*: All National *Officers* shall be elected during the National Chapter Congress. Four (4) National *Officers* will be elected in odd years for a two year term or until a successor can be elected – Vice President of Alumni, Vice President of Collegiates and two (2) Directors, and five (5) National *Officers* will be elected in even years for a two (2) year term or until a successor can be elected – President, Treasurer, Secretary and two (2) Directors. All *Officers* shall function under the National Sorority Board *Officer* Handbook.

Section 7. Term Limits: All National *Officers* may serve no more than (5) consecutive years. Time served in a National Sorority Board appointed position will count toward term limits. This term limit does not include the one (1) year served as an ex-officio of the past National Sorority Board President.



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- Section 9. Oath of National Officers:** All National *Officers* elected at a National Chapter Congress shall take the oath of office, verbally and written in the presence of the National Chapter Congress assembled, the Executive Committee, or the National Sorority Board President.
- Section 10. National Officer Eligibility Requirements and Duties:** The National Sorority Board *Officer* eligibility requirements in addition to the qualifications herein provided are as follows:
- President: requires either National Sorority Board experience, National Sorority Board appointed experience, National Alumni Board experience, and Educational Foundation Board experience within the last six (6) years.
 - Vice President: requires National Sorority Board experience, National Sorority Board appointed experience, and Educational Foundation Board experience within the last six (6) years or National Alumni Board experience within the last nine (9) years.
 - Treasurer: no previous National Sorority Board or National Sorority Board appointed experience required, but at least one year of accounting or bookkeeping experience is strongly recommended.
 - Director: no previous National Sorority Board experience required.
- The duties and powers of each officer shall be adhered to as set forth in the National Sorority Board *Officer* Handbook and in the policies of this sorority.
- Section 11. Vacancies:** Should any vacancy result in any of the National *Officer* positions, other than National President, by reason of death, resignation, impeachment, or any other cause, the process of filling the vacancy will be facilitated by the Executive Committee, the proposed candidate shall be approved by a majority vote of the entire National Sorority Board. Should a vacancy by reason of death, resignation, impeachment, or any other cause occur in the position of the National President, the Vice President shall assume the position of National President. Members filling vacancies shall serve until the next succeeding National Chapter Congress, at which time any further unexpired term shall be filled by the National Chapter Congress or as otherwise provided for in the Laws of this sorority.
- Section 12. Impeachment of National Sorority Board Officers:** Should two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the National Executive Committee feel that an elected officer should be removed from office, they shall submit such motion to the full National Sorority Board in writing, including all charges. Should a majority vote approve the motion, the officer in question shall be relieved of official responsibilities until the next National Chapter Congress. The National Chapter will be notified in writing immediately upon action of the National Sorority Board. Recall proceedings shall take place at the National Chapter Congress. The National President shall appoint a qualified member to perform the duties of the office until the outcome of the recall is determined, unless the impeached officer is the National President, whereby the Vice President shall assume the responsibilities of the National President.



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Section 13. **Recall of Elected National Officers:** The National Chapter delegates shall be empowered to vote on the recall of an elected officer if written notice is provided prior to the National Chapter Congress. Recall shall be effective by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. A special election shall then be held to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office.

3. Article VII, Section 2, 4

Section 2. **Duties and Powers:** The National Sorority Board has general responsibility for upholding and furthering the objectives of the National Sigma Alpha Sorority. The National Sorority Board's main purposes are outlined as overseeing all Sigma Alpha collegiate and alumni chapters and Sorority In Development chapters, and working cooperatively with any National Foundation, and any other current or future nationally recognized organizations. In addition, it is further understood that the National Sorority Board shall have the following duties and powers:

- a. To approve the granting of charters for the establishment of chapters as hereinafter provided.
- b. To appoint committees.
- c. To discipline individuals and chapters and alumni chapters as hereinafter provided.
- d. To determine the place and date of the meeting of the National Chapter Congress.
- e. To fill vacancies of National *Officers* as hereinafter provided.
- f. To select, appoint, and/or hire positions as found necessary, and to approve the appointment of all committees established to carry out the work of the National Sorority Board.
- g. Additional duties are listed within the National Sorority Board *Officer Handbook*. The National Sorority Board shall have such further powers as may be provided for or implied by the Laws of this sorority. All or any part of the powers enumerated in this section may be delegated to the Executive Committee by a majority vote of the National Sorority Board.

Section 4. **Annual Report:** The National Sorority Board shall issue an annual report including a budget, minutes, *officer* reports, financial report, and information on chapter visits and events to each chapter at the National Chapter Congress or by December 31st of each year.

4. Article VIII, Section 1,3

Section 1. **Definition:** The National Executive Committee, hereinafter Executive Committee, shall be the basic policy making body of this sorority and shall consist of the National Sorority Board President, Vice President of Alumni and National Treasurer. The Executive Committee may include the Ex Officio and other National *Officers* as determined by the National Sorority Board.

Section 3. **Duties and Powers:** The Executive Committee shall have duties and powers as listed within the National Sorority Board *Officer Handbook*.



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5. Article IX, Section 1

Section 1. **Standing Committees:** Current Standing Committees are outlined below. Additional duties are listed in the National Sorority Board *Officer Handbook*:

- a. National Appeals Committee shall hear appeals of disciplinary actions taken by the National Sorority Board. The National Appeals Committee shall be comprised of two (2) members of the National Sorority Board, other than the President, one (1) past National Sorority Board member, and shall be chaired by the National Sorority Board President, who is a non-voting member of the committee. The National Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the National Sorority Board President each year following the National Chapter Congress.
- b. Nomination Committee shall identify at least one (1) nominee for each office to be filled which will be sent out sixty (60) days prior to National Chapter Congress.
- c. Convention Committee
- d. Finance Committee
- e. Housing Committee
- f. Bylaw and Policy Committee
- g. Guidebook and Training Committee
- h. Leadership Seminar Committee

Proposal:

- a. Strike out “officer” and insert “board member”
- b. Strike out “office” and insert “board position”

Rationale: ***This coincides with the board intent to become an oversight board responsible for visionary direction of the sorority, rather than a traditional officer team.***



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Clarification of Board Member Elections with reference to change in titles

6. Article VI, Section 6

Section 6. Election and Tenure of Office: All National Officers shall be elected during the National Chapter Congress. Four (4) National Officers will be elected in odd years for a two year term or until a successor can be elected –Vice President of Alumni, Vice President of Collegiates and two (2) Directors, and five (5) National Officers will be elected in even years for a two (2) year term or until a successor can be elected – President, Treasurer, Secretary and two (2) Directors. All Officers shall function under the National Sorority Board Officer Handbook.

Proposal:

- a. Strike out “of Alumni” and “Vice President of Collegiates”
- b. Strike out “two (2)” and insert “three (2)”

Rationale: *Clarifies the position of Vice President to only 1 position and Vice President of Collegiates will become a Director of Collegiate position, with same scope of duties.*

Adjustment of term limits to reflect board member tenure

7. Article X, Section 19

Section 7. Term Limits: All National Officers may serve no more than (5) consecutive years. Time served in a National Sorority Board appointed position will count toward term limits. This term limit does not include the one (1) year served as an ex-officio of the past National Sorority Board President.

Proposal:

- a. Strike Out “(5)” and insert “(6)”

Rationale: *All board member position terms are listed as (2) year terms and a (5) year term limit only allows for 2 full terms and 1 half term, which isn't likely. This proposal would keep term limits in place but allow for 3 full terms on the board.*



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Change of National Committee Structure to Reflect the Four Pillars

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- b. Nomination Committee shall identify at least one (1) nominee for each office to be filled which will be sent out sixty (60) days prior to National Chapter Congress.
- c. Convention Committee
- d. Finance Committee
- e. Housing Committee
- f. Bylaw and Policy Committee
- g. Guidebook and Training Committee
- h. Leadership Seminar Committee

Proposal:

- a. Strike Out items c - h
- b. Insert:
 - i. "c. Scholarship Committee shall promote scholarship and achievement activities within chapters."
 - ii. "d. Leadership Committee shall promote professional development and leadership excellence within chapters."
 - iii. "e. Service Committee shall promote philanthropy activities within chapters."
 - iv. "f. Fellowship Committee shall promote sisterhood activities and traditions within chapters."
 - v. "g. Ethics Committee shall promote risk management and compliance within chapters."



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Rationale: *This will streamline national committees to be aligned with the four pillars and become similar to the committee structure in our chapters. This change creates a new structure for national committees to enhance their utilization.*

9. Article XIII, Section 9

Section 8. Definition of Associate Members: Associate Members are those individuals who have been duly elected by a chapter and have been approved by the National Executive Committee, but who, at the time of initiation, are not undergraduate students at the university where the chapter is situated. Only those individuals who, in the opinion of the chapter and the National Executive Committee, adhere to the ideals of Sigma Alpha, who have made a significant contribution to the chapter and agriculture, and whose professional achievements warrant the bestowing upon them of associate membership in Sigma Alpha may be initiated as Associate Members. Associate membership may be conferred upon two (2) individuals per chapter per year. These individuals may be nominated for honorary membership.

Proposal:

- b. Insert "Additional members conferred at the discretion of the National Sorority Board" before the last sentence.

Rationale: *This concession allows for chapters to request for additional associate members based on varying circumstances.*